

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 26, 2010

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
H-218 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Obey:

We write to applaud your inclusion of \$23 billion for education related jobs in the emergency supplemental appropriations bill that is currently being drafted. Like you, we believe that including this funding is an essential step to avoid hundreds of thousands of layoffs in our education system. On May 13th, Secretary Duncan sent a letter to House leadership asking for inclusion of this funding in the upcoming bill and we appreciate your response to that request.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) included nearly \$100 billion for public school systems. This funding has been credited with creating and retaining more than 300,000 education-related jobs, including positions for teachers, nurses, bus drivers and custodians. It also helped states avoid a budget crisis that would have resulted in significant cuts to school system budgets.

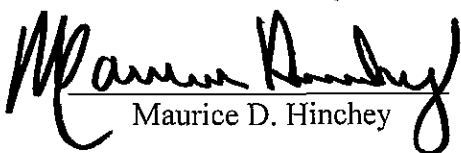
The funding provided by ARRA is running out. At the same time, states are still facing bleak budgetary outlooks and may very well have to cut funding for education in order to balance budgets. If Congress does not pass additional funding for education jobs soon, many of the jobs that have been supported by ARRA will be lost.

In December, the House passed the Jobs for Main Street Act, which contained \$23 billion for education related jobs. The Senate introduced its version of the bill earlier this year. Unless Congress provides funding for education jobs in the supplemental, it is likely that this funding will not get to states this year.

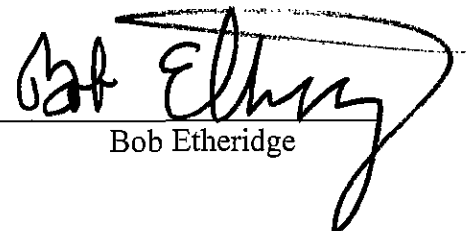
As you know, it is essential that we build upon the investment made in ARRA and provide \$23 billion to help states support 250,000 education jobs. Given the importance of this issue, and the urgency with which Congress needs to act, we believe this funding qualifies as emergency spending and thank you for including it in the supplemental appropriations bill.

Thank you for considering our request. We stand ready to assist you in any way necessary to ensure the passage of this critical funding to support our education system.

Sincerely,


Maurice D. Hinchey


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Bob Etheridge

John Lyons

Bob Hill

Alce L. Hastings

Luella Lyford Allard

Jim Moran

James Woodsey

Danny K. Davis

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Carolyn McCathey

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Bill Owens

Allen Lee

Paul Smith

Bill Pirmimi

Mazie K. Hirono

Betty Sutton

Paul D. Tonko

John Smith
Buckley

Tommy Baldwin

Lin

Jim McConnell

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